



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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***HUTCHINSIA PROCUMBENS***  
**HUTCHINSIA**

Hutchinsia is a small annual with branched, erect stems that are 2-10 cm high. Alternate, narrowly lance-shaped leaves, 5-20 mm long with entire margins or a pair of basal lobes, are largest at the base of the plant. Foliage is glabrous. Numerous tiny, stalked flowers are borne at the top of the stems in a spreading, elongate inflorescence. Each flower has 4 white, separate petals that are ca. 1 mm long, which fall shortly after opening. The glabrous, egg-shaped siliques are 3-5 mm long with a notch on top and borne on spreading stalks that are up to 10 mm long. Flowering in June, mature fruit in July.

Among annual mustards with compressed fruits that are flat or notched at the top, HUTCHINSIA differs from ALYSSUM in lacking foliage hairs, from LEPIDIUM in having more than 2 seeds per fruit, and from THLASPI in having leaves that do not clasp the stem. A hand lens and technical key may be needed for positive identification.